

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested in light of this reply. No new matter has been added. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at +1.858.314.1535 or cakukkonen@mintz.com to discuss how best to advance prosecution of this case in light of this reply.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office rejected claims 9-14, 16, 18-20, 109, 111, 114-115 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nevo (US Publication 2003/0214961) hereinafter referred to “Nevo ‘961” in view of Lor et al. (US Patent 7,779,071) hereinafter referred to as “Lor 071.” The Office rejected claims 21-26, 110, 112, and 113 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nevo in view of Lor, and further in view of Adachi et al. (US Patent 6,983,167) hereinafter referred to as “Adachi 167.” The undersigned respectfully traverses these rejections.

Notwithstanding the above, in order to expedite allowance of the current application, each of the independent claims has been amended to include subject matter indicated as being allowable. In particular, claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claim 15. Claim 109 was amended to include feature similar to that of previous claim 15. New claim 117 is based on a combination of previous claims 9 and 17. In addition, new dependent claims were added to depend from claim 117 and also from claim 107.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims should now be allowable.

Concluding Remarks

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, the pending claims are in condition for

allowance. It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 43273-506001US.

Respectfully submitted,

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